

## **I. Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

#### **In the Claims:**

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (previously presented) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7, wherein said reinforcing system further comprises a spine.
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (currently amended) A shaped charge assembly comprising:
  - a casing having an open end and a closed end;
  - walls extending away from said closed end terminating on the open end; and
  - a reinforcing system circumscribing at least a portion of said casing, said reinforcing system comprising a retaining shell coaxially circumscribing a portion of said casing and a bushing coaxially disposed between said casing and said retaining shell and wherein the inner radius of the bushing circumscribes the outer surface of the casing.

8. (previously presented) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7 wherein the thickness of said walls decreases with distance from said closed end to the open end of said case.
9. (original) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7 wherein the thickness of said bushing is variable to accommodate varied orientations of said casing.
10. (previously presented) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7 further comprising at least one other shaped charge assembly.
11. (original) The shaped charge assembly of claim 10 further comprising a gun body capable of retaining said shaped charge assembly of said at least one other shaped charge assembly.
12. (currently amended) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7 further comprising a gun body, wherein the shaped charge assembly is disposed within the gun body to produce ~~wherein said reinforcing system extends along a portion of the length of the gun body, wherein the presence of said reinforcing system and said casing produces an asymmetric radial weight distribution around~~ about the axis of the gun body ~~capable of azimuthally orienting said gun body within a wellbore.~~
13. (currently amended) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7, wherein the edge ~~edges~~ of said closed end ~~are~~ is substantially curvilinear and the thickness of said base generally exceeds the thickness of said walls thereby producing a crucible shaped casing.
14. (previously presented) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7, further comprising an annular void disposed between said retaining shell and said bushing.

15. (previously presented) The shaped charge assembly of claim 14, further comprising explosive disposed within said casing, wherein said annular void circumscribes a portion of said casing and is capable of absorbing energy resulting from detonation of the explosive.